

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter. 1st Application No  
PCT/NL2004/000655

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b><br>IPC 7    G01N21/86    G01N21/88    G01N21/95    G01N33/02    G01N33/08  |   |   |
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC   |   |   |
| <b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b><br>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)<br>IPC 7    G01N   |   |   |
| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched   |   |   |
| Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)<br>EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data   |   |   |
| <b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>   |   |   |
| Category *  | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No.   |
| X   | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN<br>vol. 1996, no. 05,<br>31 May 1996 (1996-05-31)<br>-& JP 08 005563 A (SHIRAYANAGISHIKI<br>SENKAKI KK;OTHERS: 02),<br>12 January 1996 (1996-01-12) | 1-4,7-9,<br>12,15   |
| Y   | abstract; figures 1-3<br>-----  | 10,11   |
| X   | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN<br>vol. 1999, no. 09,<br>30 July 1999 (1999-07-30)<br>-& JP 11 101689 A (SOFUTO WAAKU SU<br>KK;KUBOTA CORP),<br>13 April 1999 (1999-04-13)          | 1-4,7-9,<br>12,14,15  |
| Y   | abstract; figures 1,4,5<br>-----<br><div style="text-align: center;">-/--</div>   | 10,11   |
| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.</span> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.</span> </div>   |   |   |
| <div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>*E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date</p> <p>*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>*P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>*T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>*Z* document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div> |   |   |
| Date of the actual completion of the International search<br><br><div style="text-align: center;">8 December 2004</div>   |   | Date of mailing of the International search report<br><br><div style="text-align: center;">27/12/2004</div> |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA<br>European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2<br>NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk<br>Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,<br>Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016  |   | Authorized officer<br><br><div style="text-align: center;">Duijs, E</div>                                   |

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category *  | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No.             |
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| X<br>Y<br>A | US 5 201 576 A (SQUYRES HENRY P)<br>13 April 1993 (1993-04-13)<br>column 2, line 37 - column 4, line 19<br>column 6, line 28 - line 37<br>-----                                    | 1,2,5,8,<br>9,12-15<br>10,11<br>6 |
| X<br><br>Y  | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN<br>vol. 2000, no. 13,<br>5 February 2001 (2001-02-05)<br>-& JP 2000 283926 A (KUBOTA CORP),<br>13 October 2000 (2000-10-13)<br>abstract<br>-----         | 1-4,7-9,<br>15<br><br>10,11       |
| X<br><br>Y  | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN<br>vol. 007, no. 160 (P-210),<br>14 July 1983 (1983-07-14)<br>& JP 58 070150 A (FUJI DENKI SEIZO KK),<br>26 April 1983 (1983-04-26)<br>abstract<br>----- | 1,2,7-9,<br>12,15<br><br>10,11    |
| Y           | EP 0 377 478 A (HEUFT QUALIPLUS BV)<br>11 July 1990 (1990-07-11)<br>column 4, line 29 - line 47; claim 4;<br>figure 1<br>-----   | 10,11                             |
| Y           | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN<br>vol. 1997, no. 03,<br>31 March 1997 (1997-03-31)<br>& JP 08 304290 A (NIPPON SEIKO KK),<br>22 November 1996 (1996-11-22)<br>abstract<br>-----         | 10,11                             |

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
information on patent family members

International Application No  
**PCT/NL2004/000655**

| Patent document<br>cited in search report |   | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s)   | Publication<br>date  |
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| JP 11101689                               | A | 13-04-1999          | NONE   |  |
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| JP 2000283926                             | A | 13-10-2000          | NONE   |  |
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| EP 0377478                                | A | 11-07-1990          | NL 8900037 A<br>DE 69019001 D1<br>DE 69019001 T2<br>EP 0377478 A1<br>ES 2075131 T3 | 01-08-1990<br>08-06-1995<br>07-12-1995<br>11-07-1990<br>01-10-1995 |
| JP 08304290                               | A | 22-11-1996          | JP 3496209 B2  | 09-02-2004   |